

Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2015

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee held a meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 in the Bethany Beach Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Carole Calef; Cathy Davis; Jan Kinsella; Mary Lou McNerney; Mary Lou Urquhart; Margaret Young; Julie Malewski, Events Director/Media Coordinator.

Absent members: Vicky Drury and Theo Loppatto.

Also present: Lindsey Good, Administrative Secretary.

Call to Order

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from February 10, 2015 Meeting

After three corrections, Ms. Young made a motion to approve the minutes dated February 10, 2015 as amended. Ms. Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Announcements

- Ms. Young referenced the minutes from the February 10, 2015 meeting, and noted that she spoke with the owners of one of the properties that no longer have the historical markers in place where they were installed by the Town. The owners do still have the plaque in their possession. Ms. Olmstead stated that she will contact the owners to let them know the plaques are the property of the Town, and ask for them to be returned if they are not installed where they should be on the property.
- Ms. Olmstead provided an update on the status of the notecards. She said there is a huge variety of “clear bags” for the notecards to choose from.

Report of Small Museums Conference Held in February

Ms. Olmstead and Ms. Malewski gave the following report on the Small Museums Conference that they attended along with Ms. Loppatto in February:

The conference took place at the Clarion hotel in Ocean City, Maryland. It was very informative and interesting, especially the seminars on how to create a website and the seminar on fundraising. There were useful ideas given when planning and marketing events. The infrastructure needed, risks, budget, and resources were also discussed. Since they attended the conference, they have automatically become members of the Small Museums Association. Any other members are welcomed to attend the next conference that takes place.

Review Wording for “Whispering Giant” Plaque

Ms. Olmstead stated that at the previous meeting, it was discussed and agreed that it would be a good idea to install wording on a plaque to be placed on the “Whispering Giant” totem pole. She distributed the wording she drafted for the plaque for the Committee to review for any possible changes. The following final wording was established:

“A Bethany Beach landmark since 1976, and one of the dozens of “Whispering Giants” created by sculptor Peter Toth to honor Native Americans. When the original sculpture deteriorated, its replacement was carved by sculptor, Dennis Beach, out of white oak and installed in 1992. Six years later the statue again had to be replaced. Since by this time it was considered a town icon, the original sculptor, Peter Toth re-created the present Chief Little Owl using Pacific North Cedar to assure longevity. It was dedicated in 2002.”

Ms. Olmstead will send out this wording to the members. She will ask the company who creates the plaque the size that the plaque needs to be in able to fit all of the words. Public Works Director, Brett Warner, will be able to provide recommendations on exactly where the plaque should be installed.

Discussion Regarding Plans for Cultural Evening on April 22nd

The Cultural Event is taking place next Wednesday, April 22nd, at 7:00 p.m. the Town Hall. The presentation will be on local plants grown in the area. Ms. Malewski created a flyer on the event, which was advertised in the local newspapers and posted in the five places around town (Town Hall, PNC Bank, Bandstand, Post Office, and South Coastal Library). Information is also posted on the Town website.

Valerie Cordrey will be giving a presentation and the Town horticulturists, Melinda Linde and Jessica Williamson created a brochure on the plants and flowers grown in the town. It should be very interesting with a good turn-out of attendees. The brochures will be handed out at the front door (Ms. Malewski will order 500 copies).

Ms. Calef and Ms. Kinsella volunteered to take care of getting all of the refreshments for the event. They will have flower-themed cookies, pastel colored M&M’s, fruit punch, coffee and iced tea.

Discussion Regarding Making Oral History DVD and Notecards Available to the Public

Ms. Olmstead reported that the DVDs are in the process of being copyrighted and she hopes it is completed soon. She also noted that it will also be uploaded on the kiosk in the Town Hall Lobby. The notecards will be available to purchase in the Museum, during the Seaside Craft Show, and it was also discussed to possibly sell them with the Fourth of July Parade t-shirts. Ms. Malewski mentioned that an advertisement for the notecards could be included on the trolley signs.

Plans for the grand viewing of the DVD were discussed and it was suggested to hold a DVD viewing/luncheon at Town Hall on Wednesday, May 13th at noon, where all of the interviewees and former members of CHAC that were involved with the project be will be invited. The DVD will be running during the luncheon.

Invitations will be mailed out with a copy of the DVD, which Ms. Olmstead will work on tomorrow. The RSVP date will be May 1st. If everyone invited attends, there will be about 25 people present. Light sandwiches and desserts will be served. Ms. Davis and Ms. McNerney volunteered to take care of getting the refreshments for the event.

Volunteers for the Seaside Craft Show

The following members volunteered to assist with the Seaside Craft Show on Saturday, June 6th:

- Ms. Kinsella and Ms. Young: Booth-sitter.
- Ms. Calef: Marking of booths.

Ms. McNerney and Ms. Urquhart may also be able to volunteer, and will let Ms. Olmstead know. Ms. Olmstead thanked the members for their help with the Craft Show.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lindsey Good, CMC
Administrative Secretary